

Managing Aquatic Invasive Plant Species to Protect Montana's Water Resources

EXHIBIT _____

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DATE _____

Jan 21, 2011

HP _____

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Applicant: Sanders County

Project Type: Crucial State Need

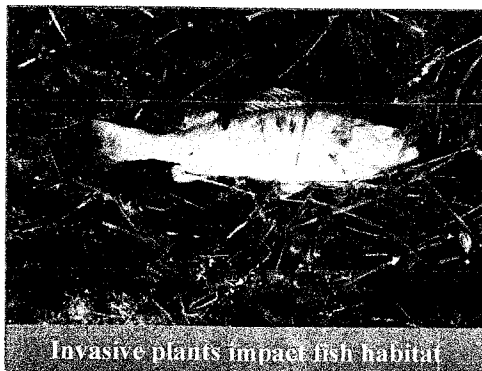
Location: Noxon and Cabinet Gorge Reservoirs

Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) is an extremely aggressive, non-native aquatic weed that poses a serious threat to Montana's rivers and lakes. Once introduced into a waterbody, Eurasian watermilfoil spreads quickly and forms thick beds with dense canopies that **impact water quality, fisheries, drinking and irrigation water supplies, human health and safety, recreational uses and hydroelectric operations.**

Eurasian watermilfoil is targeted in this project for the following reasons: 1) known impacts to aquatic environments, 2) high risk of spread to other non-infested water bodies in Montana, 3) relatively low acreage infested allows for containment/control, and 4) it is the only known infestation in Montana located west of the continental divide.



Invasive aquatic plants impact recreation



Invasive plants impact fish habitat

Goal: To effectively control Eurasian watermilfoil in Noxon Rapids and Cabinet Gorge reservoirs on the Lower Clark Fork River and reduce the risk of spread of this plant and other invasive aquatic species to non-infested water bodies.

Objective 1: Implement an aggressive **Integrated Weed Management** program on the reservoirs that includes **prevention, herbicides, physical controls, and public education/outreach.** Based upon research trial findings, DNRC resource improvement funds would be applied against other public/private sources to implement a larger scale control program on existing stands of EWM

Objective 2: Implement a **monitoring program** that provides data to **evaluate results** of herbicide treatments and other management methods for future phases.

Objective 3: Report results to grantors, community stakeholder groups and the general public.



Prevent movement



Control Infested Sites



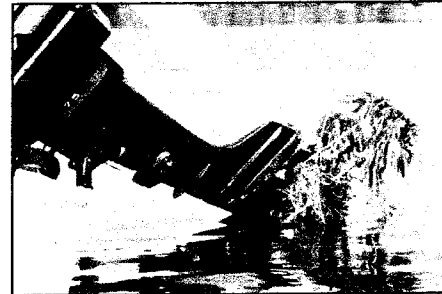
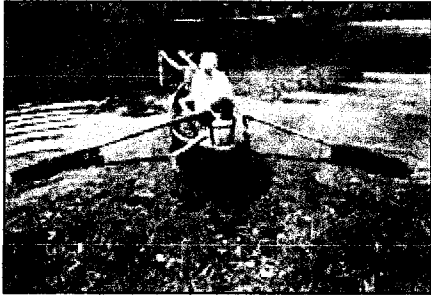
Monitor and report results

EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL

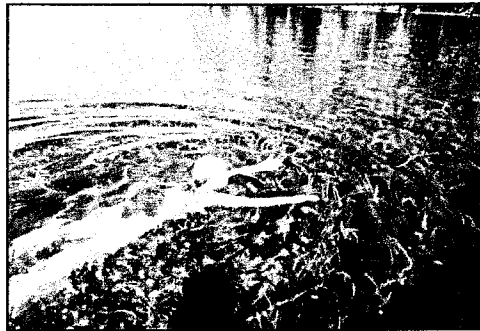


STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!™

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
Clean all recreational equipment.
www.ProtectYourWaters.net



If you see this plant contact:



Top 3 pictures are courtesy of The Lake George Association, Lake George, NY

Don't let this happen
to your water!

Be on the lookout for
Eurasian watermilfoil!

Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) is an invasive species in Montana that is currently found in Noxon and Cabinet Gorge Reservoirs (lower Clark Fork River) and in the lower Jefferson River, upper Missouri River (Toston and Canyon Ferry Reservoir) and Fort Peck Reservoir.

Why control Eurasian watermilfoil?

EWM forms dense mats which impair all forms of water-based recreation, including boating, fishing and swimming. These dense mats rapidly destroy freshwater wildlife habitat by displacing native vegetation and disrupting the food chain. EWM negatively effects water quality by altering water chemistry. EWM slows the flow of water in irrigation ditches and canals. The standing water created by EWM is ideal mosquito habitat.

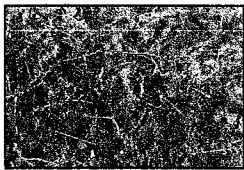


Photo courtesy of Joe DiTomaso, U.C. Davis

How to Identify Eurasian watermilfoil:

- EWM is a submerged aquatic plant that grows in shallow waters.
- EWM has long, branching stems gathered near the surface with soft feathery leaves.
- Leaves are attached in whorls of four and have 11-21 pairs of leaflets which are closely spaced.
- Leaves appear limp out of water.

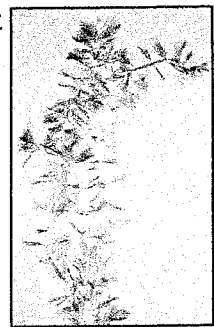


Photo courtesy of Joe DiTomaso, U.C. Davis

HELP: Prevent the spread of Eurasian watermilfoil:

- Inspect and remove all visible mud, plants and animals before leaving any body of water.
- Rinse your boats, boat trailers, personal watercrafts and any equipment that came into contact with the water after takeout and before you put-in at another water. Use hot water (above 104°F) to rinse boats and equipment. If hot water is not available, use salt water or a high pressure rinse.
- Drain water from motors, live wells and bait containers before leaving the water.
- If you can't rinse, dry your gear (boots, waders, water skis, fishing poles) for at least 6 days.
- Do NOT release any unwanted aquarium plants or animals into any body of water.